

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims in this listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-11. (Canceled)

12. (New) A recording medium preform, comprising:

a first surface and a second surface;

a circular cavity formed in the second surface, comprising an inner base surface;

and

a ring-shaped cavity formed in the first surface, a part to be punched out being located between the circular cavity and the ring-shaped cavity, the ring-shaped cavity comprising:

a first inner wall surface having a diameter substantially equal to a diameter of an inner wall surface of the circular cavity; and

a base surface substantially transverse with the first inner wall surface, wherein a thickness of the part to be punched out, defined by a distance between the base surface of the ring-shaped cavity and the inner base surface of the circular cavity, is between 10 and 300  $\mu\text{m}$ , inclusive.

13. (New) The recording medium preform according to Claim 12, wherein a corner formed by converging the first inner wall surface and the first surface is beveled.

14. (New) The recording medium preform according to Claim 12, wherein the ring-shaped cavity has a depth in a range of 50 to 150  $\mu\text{m}$ .

15. (New) The recording medium preform according to Claim 12, wherein the inner base surface is a surface of the part to be punched out.

16. (New) The recording medium preform according to Claim 12, wherein a temporary center hole is formed in a central part of the part to be punched out, the temporary center hole having a diameter smaller than the diameter of the inner wall surface of the circular cavity.

17. (New) The recording medium preform according to Claim 16, comprising a protruding cylindrical ring circling the temporary center hole in a surface of the part to be punched out on a first surface side, the cylindrical ring comprising:

an outer diameter that is smaller than the diameter of the first inner wall surface of the ring-shaped cavity; and

a central axis that is coincident with a center of the temporary center hole.

18. (New) The recording medium preform according to Claim 17, wherein the ring-shaped cavity comprises a tapered second inner wall surface that converges with the base surface of the ring-shaped cavity, the second inner wall surface being located between the first inner wall surface of the ring-shaped cavity and an outer circumferential surface of the cylindrical ring.

19. (New) The recording medium preform according to Claim 17, wherein the ring-shaped cavity comprises an outer circumferential surface of the cylindrical ring, the base surface of the ring-shaped cavity converging with the first inner wall surface of the ring-shaped cavity and the outer circumferential surface of the cylindrical ring.